
EERE Regional Office Stakeholder Update -- March 2006

This newsletter is intended to keep stakeholders of the U.S. Department of Energy's Regional Offices informed during this period of transition to a consolidated organization under the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's (EERE) Project Management Center. See information at end if you wish to be removed from distribution. If you are unable to view or print the newsletter, a PDF version is available online at <<http://www1.eere.energy.gov/regions/central.>>

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Consolidation updates

- Letters confirming permanent change of station moves for Regional Office employees relocating to the Golden Field Office and NETL were issued March 6. The letters indicate an effective date of June 25, 2006 for reassignment to the new duty locations; however, it is expected that employees will actually move during the months of May, June and July.
- Following a round of directed reassignments and some allowance for movement to either Golden NETL, it now looks as if approximately 42 of RO staff will consolidate into Golden and 25 into NETL. Golden and NETL are currently evaluating workload and staffing to identify potential vacancies which need to be filled.

The EERE Project Management Center (PMC): What it is
How the work the DOE Regional Offices do now will fit within it

A major part of EERE's mission is to develop renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and move them to the marketplace as efficiently and effectively as possible. The Project Management Center is critical to that effort. It brings together the resources necessary to implement EERE's programs, acting as a "virtual hub," linking the field elements that have the necessary specialties into one organization working toward a common goal.

The PMC now includes the Golden Field Office and elements of the National Energy Technology Laboratory, and will include the current ROs consolidated into the two organizations. This virtually-joined organization will possess all the capabilities needed to support the EERE mission, including project management, procurement, legal, finance, and many other necessary support functions.

Equally as important as developing clean energy technologies and helping move them to the marketplace is working to increase their use, a set of unique skills Regional Office employees will bring to the PMC. It requires reaching out to state and local governments, businesses that might sell or install the equipment, and potential consumers to inform them about the technologies. It also requires working to revise national, state and local policies and regulations that inhibit the spread of new energy technologies.

The consolidation of the Regional Office staff into Golden and NETL will enable EERE to better focus its resources and more fully integrate the Regional Offices' work into the PMC's project management umbrella. The State Energy Program (SEP) and the Weatherization Assistance Program will continue to receive similar emphasis as under the current RO structure.

See a listing of some key PMC contacts at
<http://www.eere.energy.gov/golden/RO_Consolidation.aspx>

The new Intergovernmental Projects and Outreach organizations

Much of the work being transferred to Golden and NETL, and many of the people relocating, will go into a new organizational element: Intergovernmental Projects and Outreach (IPO). The head of this new organization at Golden is Gary Burch, Assistant Manager for Intergovernmental Projects and Outreach. At NETL, it is Chuck Zeh, Intergovernmental Projects and Outreach Division Director. Zeh is serving in an acting capacity, and NETL is working to fill this position within the next 30-45 days.

The IPOs are composed of two primary teams:

- Intergovernmental Projects: The Intergovernmental Projects Team includes a team lead, several project officers and contracting officer representatives. Their assignments include State Energy Program activities and the Weatherization Assistance Program, as well as other EERE assigned activities. The lead at Golden is Jeff James and at NETL is Greg Davoren, who replaces S. J. Seymour.
- Outreach: The Outreach Team also includes a team lead, several project officers and contracting officer representatives. Their assignments are cross-cutting in nature. In other words, they serve as portfolio managers for multiple EERE programs, such as solar, wind, biomass, and geothermal. The lead for this organization at Golden is Gary Nowakowski and at NETL is Angela Young.

Other key players in the PMC

Two key positions in the consolidated organizational structure at Golden and NETL are the new special assistants to John Kersten, Golden Manager, and Larry Carpenter, Director of the PMC Office at NETL:

- The States Coordinators are Julie Riel at Golden and Eddie Christy at NETL. Christy is serving in an acting capacity. At this point, the vacancy announcement has closed and NETL is within 30-45 days of making a selection.
- The Coordinators will perform three major functions:
 - Supporting EERE's national outreach and marketing effort, serving as a focal contact for interaction with other governmental organizations and other EERE stakeholder groups, and advising on the preparation of strategic plans.
 - Providing technical expertise and advice on the overall coordination of EERE intergovernmental activities carried out by Golden and NETL, including outreach to other federal agencies, state and local agencies, and industry.
 - Coordinating strategic planning and project development for EERE intergovernmental initiatives. This activity will involve integrating public and private sector interests, such as industry and business sector drivers, into all EERE-related technology development activities.

Stakeholder meetings held and planned

- Senior representatives from Golden, NETL and the ROs, along with a number of state energy officials, held a series of teleconferences on March 7, 8, and 9 to discuss the consolidation. The presentation they used in concert with the teleconference covered a wide range of transition issues and should be of special interest to state officials. To view it, go to http://www.eere.energy.gov/golden/RO_Consolidation.aspx. For a summary of questions and answers from those sessions, go to https://www.eere-pmc.energy.gov/forms/ROConsolidation/StatesCallsQuestionsandanswers_v5.doc
- In addition, NETL is working with the three eastern ROs to arrange a series of pre-consolidation meetings with state energy office and weatherization office directors and staff in April. The purpose is to introduce the NETL staff, discuss the new organization, solicit input and answer questions. The schedule is April 11, 2006 (Southeast Regional Office), April 18-19, 2006 (Mid-Atlantic Regional Office) and April 20, 2006 (Northeast Regional Office). For more information, contact Eddie Christy at 304-285-4604 or eddie.christy@netl.doe.gov.

- Finally, looking out several months, regional stakeholder meetings are planned for the July-August timeframe to discuss any post-consolidation concerns and to answer questions about the new organization. Two such meetings are under consideration: August 1-3 at the Golden Field Office in Golden, Colo. and another in either Morgantown, W.Va. or Pittsburgh, Penn. for NETL, with dates still to be determined. Look for more information as we get closer.

Responses to questions we have received from stakeholders

Q: Will we continue to deal with the same RO program people or will we have new contacts? Who will they be? Where will they be located?

We expect that, in most cases, program contacts will be the same. However, we also have to balance responsibilities and workloads between Golden and NETL, and that may mean some employees will have to change program areas. We are still working our way through the process of matching employee preferences with available assignments, trying as much as possible to meet employee needs, while also ensuring we are able to carry out our mission.

Employees who have accepted reassignment offers are expected to be at their new locations by July 1. Once that takes place, we will have a better idea of who the contacts will be in the new organization.

Q: Any more information on the movement of files and people?

A management team has been assigned the task of assuring that the necessary file transfers between Golden and NETL, and from the current ROs to Golden or NETL, take place with minimal disruption of service. For most stakeholders, the transfer and final location of files should be transparent. In a few cases, while files are being transferred, we will have duplicate sets of files at Golden and NETL so that project managers will have access to the information they need to maintain a high level of service. During this period, some stakeholders may find themselves dealing with both organizations, but we will work to minimize any inconvenience this may cause.

If you have questions about specific files, or about how your particular grant management paperwork will be handled during and after this transition period, please contact your current project manager.

Q: Will the reporting structure on grants or programs change before July; if so, how? What about after that?

With the exception of the "blackout period" (discussed in the newsletter distributed February 24, 2006) on ASAP draw-downs, there will be no change in reporting requirements, grant administration or program delivery through April 30. Then, as noted above, some project management assignments will change, which means some change in contact points. Also, as mentioned above, there will be some situations in which a stakeholder will need to work with both Golden and NETL. We will keep you posted on these potential changes as much in advance as possible.

Another temporary change in service will occur April 21-30 while WinSAGA is offline. A two-week extension for grantees needing to file financial status reports during that period and for file updates has been granted, so the net effect of this temporary shutdown should be minimal. WinSAGA will continue to be used after the transition.

Q: Will e-mail addresses change for current RO staff?

As we shift over to the new organization, the e-mail addresses of current RO employees will change. For Central Regional Office (Denver) employees, because their office is co-located with Golden, e-mail addresses will change between now and April 30. For all other RO employees, the change in e-mail addresses will occur as they move to their new duty locations. We will keep you updated on this situation.

RO employee updates

- Central Regional Office

Ward Huffman will retire March 31. Dave Waltzman will serve as project manager for both the biomass and Rebuild America programs. Dave has managed both programs in the past. He can be reached at 303-275-4821 or dave.waltzman@ee.doe.gov.

- Mid-Atlantic Regional Office

Harriette Powell, energy program assistant, will retire March 31.

- Northeast Regional Office

Al Benson will retire March 31. Greg Davoren will serve as the temporary point of contact for Building Energy Codes and Building America until a new project manager is assigned. Greg can be reached at 617-565-9706 or greg.davoren@ee.doe.gov.

Lois Pasquerella will retire March 31. All weatherization related questions should go to Eric Beaton at 617-565-9732 or eric.beaton@ee.doe.gov.

- Southeast Regional Office

Nancy Mays, program specialist, will retire March 31.

Felicia Mathis, business assistant, is currently on detail to the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

- Western Regional Office

Heather Mulligan has left federal service. Curtis Framel (206-553-7841, curtis.framel@ee.doe.gov) will serve as the new point of contact for solar technologies.

Effective March 31, Eileen Yoshinaka will retire. Roxanne Dempsey (206-553-2155, roxanne.dempsey@ee.doe.gov) will serve as the new

point of contact for Rebuild America and will be the Pacific liaison.

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